

## AMENDMENTS

### In the specification:

Please delete the paragraph on page 32, line 20, to page 33, line 5, and substitute therefor:

The methods of the invention directed to identifying a polypeptide are based on comparing characteristics determined for a polypeptide with a polypeptide identification index. A polypeptide identification index can be a commercially or publicly available database such as GenBank (~~{{www.}}~~ World Wide Web address: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/GenBank](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/GenBank)), in which one or more characteristics of a polypeptide are predicted, for example, amino acid composition, mass of a polypeptide or fragment thereof, and the like. In addition, a polypeptide identification index can be based on empirically determined characteristics determined by the methods described herein. In addition, a polypeptide identification index can be a combination of predicted and empirically determined characteristics, for example, like the annotated polypeptide (AP) index disclosed herein, also referenced as an annotated peptide tag (APT) index.